



IFW ✓
EPSTEIN & GERKEN
1901 Research Boulevard, Suite 340
Rockville, Maryland 20850-3164
(301) 610-7634

Attorney Docket No.: 1348.117.US

In re the PATENT application of

Patrick J. Butler

Examiner: Michael Aboagye

Serial No.: 10/829,361

Group Art Unit: 1725

Filed: April 22, 2004

For: Apparatus and Method for Mechanically Reinforcing
the Welds Between Riser Pipes

MAIL STOP: PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Sir:

Transmitted herewith are the following documents for filing in the subject patent
application:

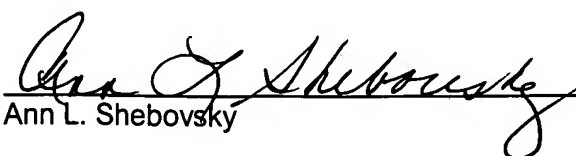
Response; and

Return Receipt Postcard.

Respectfully submitted,


Karen M. Gerken
Registration No. 31,161

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP: PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on July 20, 2006.


Ann L. Shebovsky



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty Docket No.: 1348.117.US

In re the Patent application of

Patrick J. Butler

Examiner: Michael Aboagye

Serial No.: 10/829,361

Group Art Unit: 1725

Filed: April 22, 2004

For: Apparatus and Method for Mechanically Reinforcing
the Welds Between Riser Pipes

RESPONSE

MAIL STOP: PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 20, 2006 in which restriction was required by the Examiner to one of Invention I corresponding to claims 1-12 directed to a clamp assembly for clamping a riser brace to a riser pipe of a jet pump assembly, Invention II corresponding to claims 13-20 directed to a mechanically reinforced weld between a riser pipe and a riser brace of a jet pump assembly, or Invention III corresponding to claims 21-28 directed to a method of mechanically reinforcing the weld between a riser pipe and a riser brace of a jet pump assembly.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant hereby elects, without



traverse, Invention I corresponding to claims 1-12 for prosecution on the merits.

Early, favorable action on the merits of the subject application is courteously solicited. Should any issues in the subject application remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Gerken
Registration No. 31,161

EPSTEIN & GERKEN
1901 Research Boulevard, Suite 340
Rockville, Maryland 20850
(301) 610-7634

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP: PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on July 20, 2006.

Ann L. Shebovsky